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The sowing of wheat has already commenced in various parts of the country, and if the weather continues favourable, as it now is, no time ought to be lost in putting the work forward; the early sowing generally succeeds best, as it affords time for the plants to be well established in the ground before the frost comes on, which frequently throws the roots out.

We know that the common mode of sowing wheat after the potatoe crop is removed, is against such early sowing as we recommend, and which is very generally practised in England on fallows; but in some districts in Ireland where fallow is made use of, there is nothing to prevent early sowing, but an opinion which prevails among many farmers, that it is time enough if wheat is sown during the dark of the moon before Christmas. This practice we would particularly wish to discourage; and if it is not in the power of the farmer to have his ground in a condition fit for sowing before the middle of November, we have reason to think it would be much better to defer even to the beginning of March, as the seed would then escape the season when little vegetation takes place, and during which it is liable to be injured by wet. Nothing is to be apprehended from this delay, as we can speak confidently from experience, that it does not delay the ripening above ten days or a fortnight, and the farmer stands a great chance of getting the seed sown on dry ground, a matter of more importance than is generally imagined even to succeeding crops.

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#### MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The war against commerce still continues, though the ports of Holland have unexpectedly been permitted to be opened for the exportation of many articles of their produce, while smalts and some other commodities are said to be still continued under prohibition. Some accounts state that the British administration will not permit the trade of exportation to be carried on by the Dutch, unless they will allow the importation of manufactures from this country in return. The occasion of Bonaparte's permitting the Dutch ports to be partially opened for exportation appears not to be known.

The embargo imposed on her shipping by America still continues, and in all probability will continue till after the meeting of Congress in November, and we are not without grounds for apprehension that this measure, which they deem a wise precaution to keep them out of war, may be still farther persisted in. The embargo, if persevered in, though it is likely to injure their foreign commerce, will also probably cause them to become a manufacturing nation, some years earlier than they would otherwise have attempted. Flax and cotton grow in great abundance in America, and it is said that the breed of sheep is rapidly extending. The mutual restrictions on commerce which it is now becoming the short-sighted policy of nations to retaliate on each other, will have a tendency to force trade into new channels, by which some will be gainers while others are losers. Through all, the Philanthropist rests in the pleasing confidence that the powers of annoyance are not so great as the capabilities of doing good. Nations by their foolish policy may destroy some sources of trade; but new ones in spite of all their blunders, will arise to supply their place. The madness of mankind by their wars, may desolate the fair face of a country; but this waste will ere long be supplied by the bountiful hand of nature, and fully restored to its pristine beauty. Let it not be said these remarks are misapplied in a commercial report; they naturally arise out of the subject, and on all occasions it may be allowed to show that the evils which man introduces into the world, are counteracted by the beneficent laws of our nature. Yet the philosophy of commerce to regulate the conduct of nations or of individuals, is more an object for benevolent wishes than present expectation.

But to return, and leaving a further detail of causes, to consider effects.

Trade is in its nature subject to fluctuation; but the uncertainty of it is considerably increased by the interference of hostile governments; and thus speculation is introduced, which though it turn to the gain of some, is attended with many unpleasant effects. There is a danger of trade turning into a species of gambling, and becoming subject to all the varieties and vicissitudes of a lottery speculation. Thus, whether pot-ashes, cotton, and the other articles of American produce, will rise or fall, depends on the decision of Congress, and the new president of America.

The price of wine, barilla, and other Spanish and Portuguese productions, depends on the uncertain events of the war in these countries. The same causes operate in regard to the manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland; if the fortune of war is in favour of British arms, the prices of our various manufactures will probably rise from the demand for them in those countries, which may be subject to our influence. On such

uncertain data, the sellers and purchasers must calculate in their respective transactions. In time of war, articles in the hands of the merchants usually rise from the increasing difficulties of trade, by which they are gainers; but in the event of a peace, or if the present commercial restrictions on trade be removed, the holders will be likely to be losers.

On the subject of last month's report there is little new to state. The few interested in the traffic of guineas, are likely to keep up the prejudices in their favour for some time longer. In the market of Lisburn, most of the fine linens are now bought for bank-notes. In Belfast the alteration in the mode of paying for linens will probably be more slow, though its ultimately taking place there, it is presumed, is equally certain.

In the present state of our circulating medium in this country, guineas can scarcely be considered in any other view than as tools in the hands of money-jobbers, which they do not fail to turn to their own advantage. The quantity of them in circulation is so small, that the exchange on English bills is affected by a few thousand guineas being periodically withdrawn, at the time of the assizes, by the treasurer of the counties of Antrim and Down; and in one instance last year, exchange fell in the course of about one week from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 per cent, in consequence of a loan being made in Belfast, to one of the great landed proprietors in the neighbourhood. These fluctuations, show the impolicy of confining ourselves to a medium so limited as guineas now form, as such an occurrence could not have happened if the circulating medium had been adequate to the purposes for which it is required. During last month the gold exchange fluctuated from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and the discount on bank notes from  $4\frac{1}{4}$  to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , making a higher rate with the exchange and discount added together than the bank note currency at Dublin for English bills, which average about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The Belfast remitter consequently paid a higher exchange for the bills he had occasion to take, and he might as well have done so in the first instance, as in the circuitous mode in which it was accomplished.

We have in this part of the country, four or five different kinds of circulating mediums; guineas, bank silver coinage, dollars, bank of Ireland notes, and the notes of private bankers, all bearing different relative values, and tending to render every sort of bargaining more complicated and difficult.

Guineas are of great advantage to those who discount in gold; but it is not reasonable to expect the many will continue to be so blinded to their own interest, as not to see the disadvantages and perplexities attending a mode of payment so limited in extent as the remnant of our gold currency must now necessarily be, and in the management of which the knowing commercial financier has such a decided advantage.

American pot-ashes after declining a little in price, are now rather looking up—Barilla keeps without advance—Cotton Wool is scarce, and by accounts from Liverpool, considerably advancing in price—Sugar is expected to advance, as soon as the distiller comes into the market to purchase for distillation. Letters from Holland state that they have had there a good crop of flax this year. If the Dutch ports are allowed to be kept open, we may receive from them a seasonable supply to make up the deficiency of the flax crop in this country.

### MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from 28th August till 28th September.

Barometer.....highest . . . . .	30 44	Thermometer.....highest . . . . .	68 40
mean . . . . .	29 88	mean . . . . .	62 10
lowest . . . . .	29 34	lowest . . . . .	56 00
<i>Synocha</i> . . . . .	2	An inflammatory fever....not infectious.	
<i>Typhus</i> . . . . .	2	Nervous, or infectious fever.	
<i>Synochus</i> . . . . .	3	Of a mixed nature, between typhus and synocha.	
<i>Cyanche Tonsillaris</i> . . . . .	2	Quinsy.	
<i>Erysipelas</i> . . . . .	1	Saint Anthony's fire, or Rose.	
<i>Variola</i> . . . . .	12	Small-pox.	
<i>Rubeola</i> . . . . .	1	Measles.	
<i>Varicella</i> . . . . .	2	Chicken-pox.	
<i>Ophthalmia</i> . . . . .	3	Inflammation of the eyes.	
<i>Rheumatismus</i> . . . . .	3	Rheumatism.	
<i>Abortus</i> . . . . .	2	Abortion.	